

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 12-23 and 34-35 without prejudice or disclaimer.

The following claim listing replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims:

1-23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) A battery comprising an electrode plate unit, the electrode plate unit including:

a group of electrode plates comprising a plurality of positive electrode plates and a plurality of negative electrode plates that are alternately stacked upon one another with intervening separators therebetween, wherein:

edges of said plurality of positive electrode plates protrude beyond edges of said plurality of negative electrode plates on one side of said group of electrode plates, and

edges of said plurality of negative electrode plates protrude beyond edges of said plurality of positive electrode plates on an opposite side of said group of electrode plates;

a positive electrode collector plate attached to said protruding edges of said plurality of positive electrode plates and having a plurality of parallel positive electrode collector plate channels each having raised edges protruding beyond a plane defined by said positive electrode collector plate, said raised edges of said positive electrode collector plate channel

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channels on a side of said positive electrode collector plate attached to said protruding edges of said plurality of positive electrode plates; ~~and~~

a negative electrode collector plate attached to said protruding edges of said plurality of negative electrode plates and having a plurality of parallel negative electrode collector plate channels each having raised edges protruding beyond a plane defined by said negative electrode collector plate, said raised edges of said negative electrode collector plate channels on a side of said negative electrode collector plate attached to said protruding edges of said plurality of negative electrode plates; and

a planar portion extending between adjacent said channels of at least one of said positive electrode collector plate and said negative electrode collector plate.

25. (previously presented) The battery according to claim 24, wherein at least one of a said positive electrode collector plate channel and a said negative electrode collector plate channel extends along a respective at least one positive electrode collector plate and said negative electrode collector plate, in a direction substantially parallel to the direction in which said positive electrode plates and said negative electrode plates are stacked.

26. (previously presented) The battery according to claim 24, wherein said positive electrode collector plates and said negative electrode collector plates are made of one of nickel sheet and nickel-plated steel sheet.

27. (previously presented) The battery according to claim 24, further comprising:

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a solder material attached between said positive electrode collector plate and said protruding edges of said plurality of positive electrode plates, and attached between said negative electrode collector plate and said protruding edges of said plurality of negative electrode plates.

28. (previously presented) The battery according to claim 27, wherein:

said solder material is configured to be applied to said positive and negative electrode collector plates prior to being applied to said protruding edges of said plurality of positive and negative electrode plates; and

said solder material is configured to be reflowed after being applied in said channels of said positive and negative electrode collector plates.

29. (currently amended) A battery comprising an electrode plate unit, the electrode plate unit including:

a plurality of positive electrode plates and a plurality of negative electrode plates that are alternately stacked upon one another with intervening separators therebetween; and

an electrode collector plate attached to protruding edges of at least one of said plurality of positive electrode plates and said plurality of negative electrode plates;

a plurality of bent portions, each bent portion of said plurality of bent portions respectively formed by bending a portion of an edge of said protruding edges, wherein

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not all of said bent portions on a said edge are uniform in length and said plurality of bent portions form a uniform, flat end surface at a lateral end of the electrode plate unit.

30. (currently amended) A battery comprising an electrode plate unit, the electrode plate unit including:

a group of electrode plates comprising a plurality of positive electrode plates and a plurality of negative electrode plates that are alternately stacked upon one another with intervening separators therebetween, wherein:

edges of said plurality of positive electrode plates protrude beyond edges of said plurality of negative electrode plates on one side of said group of electrode plates, each said edge of said edges of said plurality of positive electrode plates having a slit therein; and

edges of said plurality of negative electrode plates protrude beyond edges of said plurality of positive electrode plates on an opposite side of said group of electrode plates, each said edge of said edges of said plurality of negative electrode plates having a slit therein;

a positive electrode collector plate attached to said protruding edges of said plurality of positive electrode plates and having a plurality of parallel positive electrode collector plate channels each having by raised edges protruding beyond a plane defined by said positive electrode collector plate, said raised edges of said positive electrode collector plate channels

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on a side of said positive electrode collector plate attached to said protruding edges of said plurality of positive electrode plates; **and**

a negative electrode collector plate attached to said protruding edges of said plurality of negative electrode plates and having a plurality of parallel negative electrode collector plate channels each having raised edges protruding beyond a plane defined by said negative electrode collector plate, said raised edges of said negative electrode collector plate channel on a side of said negative electrode collector plate attached to said protruding edges of said plurality of negative electrode plates; and

a planar portion extending between adjacent said channels of at least one of said positive electrode collector plate and said negative electrode collector plate.

31. (currently amended) A battery comprising an electrode plate unit, the electrode plate unit including:

a plurality of positive electrode plates and a plurality of negative electrode plates that are alternately stacked upon one another with intervening separators therebetween, lead portions of each of said plurality of positive electrode plates and lead portions of each of said plurality of negative electrode plates extending along a respective edge thereof;

a collector plate attached to said lead portions of at least one of said plurality of positive electrode plates and said plurality of negative electrode plates; and

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a plurality of bent portions, each bent portion of said plurality of bent portions respectively formed [[on]] by bending a portion of a said [[edge]] lead portion of said plurality of positive electrode plates and said plurality of negative electrode plates, wherein not all of said bent portions on a said [[edge]] lead portion are uniform in length and said plurality of bent portions form a uniform, flat end surface at a lateral end of the electrode plate unit,

wherein said lead portions comprise a locator configured to position said edges of at least one of said positive electrode plates and said negative electrode plates with respect to said collector plate.

32. (previously presented) The battery according to claim 31, wherein said locator is one of a hole and a cut-out.

33. (previously presented) The battery according to claim 31, wherein said lead portions of at least one of said plurality of positive electrode plates and said plurality of negative electrode plates comprise a reinforcing material.

34-35. (canceled)